Circulation, 33d sopies.

The Rabul War.

steady progress. The Afghans are heartily averse to for interference in the Mighans are heartily averse to for interference in the Mighans of the Amir and his officials. The Amir and his officials, the Amir and his officials, the most like the British runs at present because they are

Civilising influe Reverence they will sever

Present war has cost the Government a great deal of month of the covernment and biocapted with the Government and biocapted of the covernment of the covernm

selves under our palteton Tiled of Gery anxious lest

there seems to be no good reason why The Kabul War. the war should be prolonged. If the Government wishes to annex the whole of Afghanistan, it will have to maintain a large army to hold it. It is a barren country, and cannot pay for its own administration. If it is sunexed, the cost of its administration will be a permanent burden upon India, which she cannot afford to bear in her present condition. The object of the present war is simply to secure the north-western frontier of India against foreign invasion. To attain this object it will be quite sufficient to occupy and fortify the Khyber and the Bolan Pass. With these passes in our pussession we can keep large invading armies at bay. It is not necessary to establish military cantonments at Kabul, Kaudahar, and Herat. The Afghans are an avaricious people, and, therefore, no faith can be placed in their promises. The Amir has fled from Kabul, and no one offers any resistance to the advance of our troops. Under these circumstances it is weless to prolong the war abar

Circulation, 150 copies.

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Circulation, 380 copies.

The Miratul Hind of the 15th February, received on the 26th idem, says : Thank Heaven The Kabul War. that the Kabul expedition is making The Afghans are heartily averse to foreign steady progress. interference in their affairs, but they were disgusted with the tyranny and oppression of the Amir and his officials. They do not like the British rule at present because they are not yet able to appreciate its merits, but when in the course of time they have abandoned their barbarous habits under the civilising influence of British Government they will severely condemn the Afghan rule, and like the British rule. As the present war has cost the Government a great deal of money and blood, it would not be wise to perpetuate the oppressive Afghan Government in Afghanistan for the future. Those Afghan tribes and sardars who have voluntarily placed themselves under our protection must be very anxious lest we should again make them over to the vengeance of their old rulers. There appears to be no good reason why we should restore the country to the enemy when we have once conquered and occupied it. In connection with the establishment of British rule in Afghanistan, we recommend the following proposals for the favourable consideration of Government:-

First.—That Christian Missionaries should not be allowed to enter Afghanistan, and preach the Gospel to barbarous tribes.

Secondly.—That the administration of the country should not be entrusted into the hands of self-willed and loose men, as was the case at the time of the late occupation. The country should be placed under the charge of experienced and wise officers. Above all, they should be men of good moral conduct. It is more difficult to rule over Afghanistan than to conquer it.

Thirdly.—That men belonging to the warlike tribes of India, such as Kshatris, Sikhs, Marathas, &c., should be induced to settle in Afghanistan.

Cinoula blom, 150 copies.

The same paper publishes a communicated article on the The cost of the war. question of the cost of the war. We ne cost of the writer, are convinced, says the writer, that the question will be decided in accordance with the wishes of Parliament. Hewever, we are bound to express our own opinion on the subject. The real object of the present Kabul war is to maintain British prestige. It is not right to say that it has been undertaken to secure the north-west frontier of India, which was thought to be in danger owing to the hostile attitude of Amir Sher Ali. The attitude of the Amir has been hostile for the last three or four years. No one can say that the Indian frontier was insecure during that period. There is no doubt that the late Afridi war was undertaken simply with the object of securing peace on the frontier, but the same cannot be said of the present Kabul war. The Kabul war is intended to protect Imperial and not Indian interests, and therefore, England should pay for it. Moreover, repeated famines have so affected the condition of India that it is not advisable to saddle her with the cost of the war. Thousands of men have been obliged to sell all their property in order to tide over their difficulties, and hundreds of thousands have perished from starvation. The condition of the agricultural classes is simply deplorable. In these circumstances the levy of a war tax is sure to ruin the people. If the English Government is unwilling to pay the entire cost of the war, the Government of India may share the cost with it. The best way for the Government of India to pay its share of the cost will be to appropriate the proceeds of the license tax for the purpose. The income derived from the license tax is a kind of reserve fund to meet all extraordinary expenses, as those of the famine, war, &c. The Government should also improve its financial condition by curtailing all unnecessary expenditure, because it is not wise to impose a new tax upon the People on every occasion when it is put to any additional expense. but transport of lievers value of the country but some

Circulation, 719 copies

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Circulation, 150 copies.

The Mitra Bilds of the 24th February, in continuation of its previous article on the question The cest of the war of the cost of the war (vide the Selections for the week ending the 15th February, 1879, page 119), says that India asks for justice and no favour at the hands of the English Gover ument in this matter. The Eng. lish Government has picked this quarrel with the Amir with the object of arresting the extension of Russian influence in Central Asia. India is not an independent country, and, therefore, she had nothing to do with the aggrandisement of It is the duty of England to look to her interests, In these circumstances it is not just to saddle India with the cost of the war. The Mitra Bilas then quotes an extract from the Economist, in which the writer charges Lord Beaconsfield with a falsehood for declaring, on one occasion in the House of Commons, that the object of the war was not simply to rectify the Khyber and to establish military cantonments at Dakk a, Jalalabad, &c., but that this war was an important affair on which the maintenance of English prestige in Europe depended, and for declaring, on another occasion, only six days after, that this war was simply one of those frontier wars which the Government has frequently to wage. The writer also states that England is bound by existing obligations to pay for all the wars waged beyond the Indian frontier. The Mitra Bilds then briefly quotes the opinions of five Members of the Secretary of State's Council, vis., the Hon'ble Sir Erskine Perry, the Hon'ble Sir Barrow H. Ellis, the Hon'ble Sir Robert Montgomery, the Hon'ble Mr. R. A. Dallyal, and the Hon'ble Sir William Muir, who are in favour of India on the subject of the cost of the war.

Circulation, 719 copies.

The Cudh Akhbar of the 27th February, referring to the The reduction of the article in the London Times on the armies of Native States. subject of the reduction of the armies of Native Chiefs, approves of a reduction being made. When peace and tranquillity prevail in the country, and when no

danger is apprehended from foreign invaders or internal foes, it is not wise to waste public revenue in maintaining large armies. It may be unged against the proposal to reduce the armies of Native Chiefs that if the Chiefs had not a suitable number of troops, how would they be able to assist the Government in the present crisis? But it should be remembered that the Government did not need the aid of the Native Chiefs. The feudatory Chiefs voluntarily offered the services of their troops for employment on the frontier, and the Government has accepted their offer only to please them. Government is very rich, and has good generals. raise and discipline any number of troops within a very short time if it pleases. Some persons may also object to the reduction of the armies of Native Chiefs on the ground that some Chiefs are not unfrequently obliged to resort to arms to realise revenues from their refractory zamindars, and that the reduction of their armies will encourage insurrections in their States. To this we would reply that three or four companies of disciplined and well equiped soldiers are sufficient to encounter ten thousand undisciplined troops. over, when there is any insurrection in a State, which the Chief is unable to quell with his own troops, he can easily secure aid from the nearest British cantonments. However, if by a reduction of the armies of Native Chiefs the Times means the entire disarmament of Native States, we are strongly opposed to it, because such a measure is calculated to displease the Chiefs, but if our contemporary only recommends the retrenchment of all unnecessary expenses, we heartily approve of the proposal. The Native States should maintain a smaller number of troops than they do at present, but these troops should be better disciplined and better equiped. This measure will relieve them of a great deal of unner Cessary expenditure. When the Kabul war is at an end, and the frontier has been scientifically regtified, the Gevernment of India should also reduce its own army, a si sound drogmi

Circulation, 175 copies.

Circulation, 260 copies.

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Circulation, 175 copies. The Vrita Dhara of the 24th February states that high prices rule in Baroda, and that, thereThe establishment of a poor-house by the Baroda fore, Sir T Madho Rao, the prime Darbar.

Darbar.

In poor house for the relief of the famine-stricken people.

The poor are fed gratis. A hospital has been also established for the treatment of the sick. The other Native Chiefs should follow the example of the Baroda State.

GRNBRAL ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation, 260 copies. The Vakil-i-Hindustan of the 22nd February protests

The abolition of the cot- against the abolition of the cotton
ton import duties. import duties on the following
grounds:—

First.—That the present financial condition of India is very unsatisfactory, and does not admit of the surrender of any large source of revenue. Repeated visitations have been a heavy drain upon the revenues, so much so, that the Government has been obliged to levy a special famine tax. The country is also menaced with the payment of the cost of the war.

Secondly.—That, in the event of the repeal of the cotton import duties, some other tax will have to be levied to recoup the loss. But no other kind of tax can be proposed as unobjectionable as the import duties. The salt tax does not admit of any further increase. The tax levied on cotton fabrics imported to India extends to the poor classes without being felt as oppressive.

Thirdly.—That the Bombay mills manufacture only coarse cloth, and that, therefore, there appears to be no reason why the import duties on fine fabrics should be abolished.

The Vakil then proceeds to say that the question of the import duties is a very delicate one, and should be decided

with a view to the interests of both India and Manchester.

As the interests of England and India are identical, we do not oppose the request of Manchester, but we simply contend that no concession should be made to Manchester which is calculated to be prejudicial to India.

The Oudh Akhbar of the 1st March approves of the con-The construction of irri- struction of large pucka wells for irrigation purposes, and states gation wells. they will be of great use in time of drought. The Oudk Akhbar, however, is opposed to the project of making takavi advances to the zamindars for the purpose, on the ground that some of them may appropriate the money for their personal expenses, and that the wells constructed by them may turn out to be useless. The Oudh Akhbar suggests that the Government should engage the services of some skilful engineers on small pay for the execution of the scheme, and believes that the work will be done better and more economically and speedily in this way. The Government may realise the cost of the wells from zamindars by small instalments within a fixed period, or let the wells remain the property of the State, and charge a small rate upon the cultivators for the use of water as in the case of canals. No time should be lost in the construction of wells in those places where no means of irrigation already exist.

The same paper complains that the slave-trade prevails in

Slave trade in India.

India in a disguised form, and asks

Government to make strenuous efforts
to put a stop to it. There are several tribes in India, such
as Banjaras, Kanjars, &c., who are professional kidnappers.

Dancing-girls, prostitutes and eunuchs purchase children
from their poor parents or kidnappers, and train them to
their vile trades. They have always been able to easily procure children from Native States and hill districts, such as
Naini Tal, Almora, Ranikhet, Dehra Dun, Simla, &c. The

Circulation, 719 copies.

Circulation 430 copies. manu last year, and some measures were adopted by him to check the exportation of children from the high districts. These measures may check it to some extent, but they cannot put a step to it. The Government should enact a special law to suppress the slave trade which goes on in India in this way, and the law should be very strictly enforced through the police and municipal committees. The co-operation of Native States is also essential for the effectual suppression of the evil. Every municipal committee should prepare a list of dancing-girls and prostitutes who live within its jurisdiction, and the girls already in their possession should be taken away from them, and restored to their respective parents or other persons who may be willing to take them.

In the course of the article the Outh Akhbar also protests against the making over of famine stricken children to Christian Missions in time of scarcity, on the ground that such children are converted to the Christian religion, and thus become outcasts for the remainder of their lives. The Outh Akhbar also urges the establishment of a house by each municipality for the support of illegitimate children, as is the case in England. The establishment of such houses will put a stop to the practice of killing illegitimate children by their mothers.

Circulation, 480 eopies.

719 copies.

The Nur-i-Afekan (published and edited by the Revd. Mr.
The increase of prostil Kelso, Ludhiana), of the 27th Februtures.

ary, asks the Government to adopt some measures to check the increase of prostitutes. The Government has done nothing to discourage prostitution. On the contrary, it grants licenses to prostitutes living within cantonment limits, and has even established lock-hospitals for their examination and treatment. It is to be regretted that while the Government does so much to cure their bodily diseases, it does not lock to their spiritual or moral disease. The former

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ner, ers o Cour kings adopted different measures to check the increase of prostitutes, but the present law provides no punishment for the man or woman who commits adultery. The Government should do something to discourage prostitution. The scheme adopted by the Emperor Akbar for the purpose may be followed with advantage. No prostitute should be allowed to live within a town. A place outside the town should be assigned for their abode, and a daroga and a muharrir should be employed to register the names of the visitors to that place, and the register should be submitted every week to the magistrate for inspection. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the great increase of prostitutes at Bombay.

A correspondent of the Qaisar-ul-Akhbar of the 23rd Feb-

Candidates for the office of tahsildar in the North-Western Provinces.

ruary complains of the way in which the subordinate executive service is at present recruited in the North-Western

Provinces. Any man who can get a recommendation from any European officer can easily obtain an appointment in the grade of tabsildars, even if he has received little or no education. But it is very difficult for those men whose names have been entered in the register of candidates for the office of tahsildar, and who have even passed the prescribed examination, to obtain an appointment, if they are not fortunate enough to secure the recommendation of an European officer. The writer contends that the passed candidates have prior claims, and prays that the Board of Revenue and the Commissioners should always see that their claims are not overlooked by the district officers in favour of their favorites.

The Hon'ble C. A. Turner, and the native pleaders of the Allahabad High Court

The Safir-i-Hind, Amritsar, of the 22nd February, quotes the following extract from the Star, a native newspaper published in English at Benares :- The native pleaders

Circulation, 150 copies.

Circulation. 170 copies.

the Hon'ble C. A. Turner at the time of his departure from Allahabad to join his new appointment at Madras, on the ground that his conduct towards them was not so good as towards the barristers. He looked upon long gowns with great respect, and publicly recognised the distinction of race. The pleaders thought that the presenting of an address to the Hon'ble C. A. Turner was not only opposed to their conscience, but would expose them to contempt.

In regard to the above extract the Safir-i-Hind remarks that if the grounds on which the pleaders refused to present an address to the Hon'ble C. A. Turner are true, their conduct was really very courageous and praiseworthy. It deserves to be followed by all men who have any sense of self If the presenting of addresses by Natives to European officers were regulated by this principle, the value of those addresses would be greatly increased. Sir Walter Morgan, the late Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, in whose place Mr. Turner has been appointed, was formerly Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. He recognised no distinction of color. We have heard that an industrial school for Christian children will be established at Allahabad in memory of the Hon'ble C. A. Turner. Subscriptions are also being raised in the North-Western Provinces for the erection of a memorial to Sir Walter Morgan, although his connection with these provinces had long been severed. Babu Kashi Nath Biswas subordinate judge of Meerut, has collected about Rs. 600 from among the native pleaders of that city. Maulvi Farid-ud-din Admad Khan, subordinate judge of Aligarh, is also busy collecting subscriptions for the purpose. Sir Walter Morgan has erected a good memorial for himself in the hearts of Natives. Whenever a native gentleman goes to pay a visit to a European officer he mentions the name of Sir Walter Morgan with great respect.

The Anjuman-i-Hind, Lucknow, of the 22nd February, says that at the time of the annexation The relatives and dependof Oudh, the Government granted ents of the ex-King of pensions to a large number of the relatives and officers of the ex-King of Oudh. But there is also a large number of the relatives of the ex-King who were not able to obtain pensions at the time for some reason or other. They are now in great distress. When the new judicial scheme is put into force, the Government should provide employment for them. Those men who get suitable pensions for their support, and are consequently free from the anxiety of earning a livelihood, may be appointed honorary magistrates. They will be best able to make enquiries into those criminal cases which take place in those parts of the city of Lucknow in which they live. They will also become acquainted with the law by administering it.

Circulation, 132 copies.

A correspondent of the Vakil-i-Hindustan of the 22nd

The assessment of the February, writing from Lahore, says license tax in Lahore. that the work of assessing the license tax appears to have been very badly done in Lahore, specially in the pargana of Kasur. So many appeals were made to the deputy commissioner against assessments that he has ordered the whole assessments to be revised. The assessments were so carelessly made by the honorary magistrates and the municipal committee that in some cases the deputy commissioner had to reduce the assessed license fee from Rs. 100 to Rs. 5 on appeal.

Circulation, 260 copies.

A correspondent of the Qaisar-ul-Akhbar, of the 23rd

The levy of the license February, writing from Handia, in tax upon village Maha- the Allahabad district, approves of the creation of a famine insurance fund by the levy of the license tax, but argues that the grain dealers, who lend grain to peasants, should be exempted from the payment of the license tax, as the tax ultimately affects

Circulation, 150 copies.



the peasantry. The village mahajans have increased their rates of interest, which were already too heavy, on the ground that they have to pay the license tax. In that part of the country where the writer lives, when a cultivator borrows a quantity of grain from the mahajan, he has to pay that quantity together with one-fourth of that quantity as interest to the latter at the time of harvest. Since the levy of the license tax the mahajan has increased this rate of interest by two annas per maund of grain to cover the loss inflicted upon him by the payment of the tax. This increase of interest presses severely upon the agricultural classes, specially at the present time of distress. The writer prays that the village mahajans may be exempted from the payment of the license tax, so that they may not exact increased rates of interest from the poor peasants.

Circulation, 96 copies.

A correspondent of the Nayyar-i-Azam of the 24th February says that the people have long The levy of the license been suffering from high prices, and tax. that, therefore, the levy of the license tax presses severely upon It is said that the tax has been imposed for our own benefit, but the remedy has proved worse than the disease. The well-to-do classes of the community can easily afford to pay the tax, but those poor persons who earn six pice a day with difficulty, while their daily expenses amount to four annas, cannot. It is true that according to the provisions of the License Act no man whose annual income is less than Rs. 100 is liable to the payment of the tax, but the over-zealous assessors have not exempted even poor shoe-makers and barbers.

The editor of the Riaz-ul-Akhbár, Khairabad, Sitapur,
has recently started a monthly magazine
of poetry, entitled the Gulkadah Riaz.
In the last page of the January number
the editor comments on passing events. In regard to



Pandit Har Sahai's case the editor remarks: The unjust dismissal of Pandit Har Sahai has disheartened all native officials. The controversy carried on in the columns of the Pioneer about the case is interesting and reasonable, but the remarks of the Oudh Akhbár are based on flattery.

The Vakil-i-Hindustan, Amritsar, of the 22nd February, in an article communicated by a cor-

The orderlies of high respondent, says that the orderlies of European officials.

high European officials are a wonder-

ful kind of creatures. The pay of an orderly is generally only Rs. 5, but he and his wife wear embroidered clothes. He does not go on foot, but has a horse to ride. He has cows and buffaloes. His house is generally better built and better furnished than that of a tahsildar. Native officials, such as tahsildars and munsifs, treat him with great respect, and always try to keep him in good humour. A mere wrinkle in his face is sufficient to frighten them. They must pay him an inam (reward) whenever they go to pay a visit to his master.

The Bharat Bandhu of the 28th February highly approves

The distribution of khilats to those gentlemen who rendered relief to the poor during the late scarcity.

of the distribution of khilats by the Hon'ble Sir George Couper, Bart., at the late Agra Darbar, to those land-holders who assisted their tenants

during the late scarcity, on the ground that it will stimulate private charity on future occasions of distress.

The Agra Akhbár of the 21st February, received on C. W. McMinn, Esq., the 28th idem, briefly notices the Joint Magistrate, Agra. case of C. W. McMinn, Esq., late joint magistrate of Agra, who has been transferred to the Central Provinces by the order of the Government of India for criticising the famine administration of A. J. Lawrence, Esq., the magistrate of Agra, during the late scarcity. It is a matter of deep regret, says the Agra Akhbár, that an able officer has been transferred from our district. But this is a

Circulation, 260 copies.

Circulation, 175 copies.

Circulation, 225 copies.



regret which the friends of Mr. McMinn are doomed to share frequently. In 1874 he was transferred from Oudh to the North-Western Provinces under similar circumstances. It was his duty to assist Mr. Lawrence in the administration of famine, but, on the contrary, he adopted a policy which rendered his relations with his superior officer very strained. Mr. Lawrence showed great indulgence to him, but he persisted in his attitude of hostility. The work of famine administration was very heavy at Agra at the time, and Mr. Lawrence had to cope with it single-handed. Mr. McMinn should have assisted Mr. Lawrence in the management of relief operations instead of standing aloof and picking holes in his policy. If he saw any shortcomings in the relief measures of Mr. Lawrence, he should have brought them to the notice of the latter in a friendly spirit.

BDUCATION.

Circulation, 719 copies.

The Oudh Akhbar of the 24th February protests against
the admission of the children of dancementation of the children of dancing-girls ing-girls to schools with those of the respectable classes, on the ground that the conduct of the former will affect the conduct of the latter, but proposes the establishment of separate schools for the former wherever deemed necessary.

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